



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman
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Education Plan Vital to America's High-Tech Future

Yesterday, President Bush outlined his agenda to ensure the long-term growth of high technology, a key component of which is the *No Child Left Behind* bill. Today's high-tech economy requires an educated and skilled workforce.

States and local school districts are already experimenting with promising technology programs, from online research services to distance learning initiatives. President Bush believes that such innovation should be encouraged by the federal government and bolstered by federal funding.

The President, however, recognizes that federal bureaucracies can hinder state and local efforts. Hence, H.R. 1 consolidates education technology programs into a performance-based technology grant program that sends more money to schools. By eliminating duplicative programs, for example, it ensures that schools will not have to submit multiple grant applications and waste precious dollars on administrative expenses.

H.R. 1 allows states and school districts to target technology funding toward the specific needs of individual schools. As Rep. Buck McKeon, chairman of the House Education Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness, recently said, the President's plan makes certain that "we will be increasing flexibility and targeting dollars to those who need them most."

Message of the Day

President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* plan consolidates federal education technology programs. States and local school districts may target funding toward those who need it most.

- ❑ *The Bush plan will increase high-need schools' access to education technology.*
- ❑ *The federal government should not attach too many strings to education technology funding; states and local schools are laboratories of innovation.*
- ❑ *Promoting innovative state and local education technology programs will ultimately create a more productive workforce.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- According to the General Accounting Office (GAO), there are 35 federal programs among eight agencies that could support telecommunications and information technology programs at local schools and libraries.
- In 1995, the major technology programs under Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) were funded at combined level of \$50 million; today, they account for \$872 million.
- President Bush's plan consolidates these programs into an education technology grant available to states based on how much Title I funding they receive and their relative population of individuals ages 5-17.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"As legislators and community leaders, we have the responsibility to develop policies and make informed decisions to ensure that new technologies will enhance, and not frustrate, learning." **Web-Based Education Commission Report, December 2000**